10,11 and 12 of the Cattle-Tresspass Act, 1871 and Sections 227 and 328 of the NDMC Act, 1994.

Natural Gas Production in Gujarat and Maharashtra

884. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state;

(a) the quantity of natural gas being utilised currently in Gujarat and Maharashtra;

(b) the quantity of gas flared up every day in the above regions;

(c) the quantity of gas being processed into LPG and plans for increasing LPG production in Gujarat;

(d) whether gas from wells which have no oil are kept closed and gas conserved; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Around 12 MMSCMD and 19* MMSCMD are being utilised currently in Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively.

(b) Around 0.7 MMSCMD is currently being flared in Gujarat. There is no flaring in Maharasthra.

(c) At present around 7 MMSCMD is being processed for LPG extraction in Gujarat. GAIL has proposed setting up a new 370,000 MTPA LPG plant at Gandhar.

(d) and (e) Production from free gas wells is regulated according to demand.

*Includes internal use by ONGC at offshore locations.

Extinction of Flora and Fauna

885. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware that many rare species of flora and fauna of the country are at present on the verge of extinction;

(b) whether it is a fact that there have been frequent seizure of skins and other wildlife products in the country;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there are adequate law to protect wildlife but their enforcement is weak; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to strengthen the present legal protective provisions and if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Although implementation of wildlife laws is being done in the forest areas, national parks and sanctuaries with limited staff, there is inadequate support to deal with the problem of illegal trade in market places and transit points. To overcome this, the following steps have been taken:

(i) This Ministry has set up a National Coordination Committee consisting of representatives of all major enforcement organisations such as: Customs, Revenue intelligence CBI, Police BSF, ITBP, RPF and Foreign Post Office, Traffic-India and Wildlife authorities to enable effective inter-departmental cooperation and coordination to deal with the problem of illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products.

(ii) Training programmes on enforcement and implementation of wildlife and other related laws and

international conventions have been organised for all the enforcement agencies in February and November, 1995.

(iii) Raids are carried out by the wildlife and authorities, in cooperation with other enforcement agencies if necessary, whenever information of illegal trading in wildlife is received.

(iv) India is a signitory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) under which international trade in endangered species and their parts and derivatives is strictly regulated.

(v) Rewards are given to informers or gathering intelligence regarding illegal trade in smuggling of wildlife products.

(vi) A Committee set up by this Ministry to look into issues related to illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products has recommended specific measures to deal with this problem and these are being followed up with the States for implementation.

(vii) Regional and sub-regional offices of wildlife Preservation have been set-up mainly at the major export centres of the country to prevent illegal trade and smuggling of wildlife products.

Development of Satelite Port at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh

886. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDEY:
SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state the progress made so far in the development of Satellite Port at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): No decision has yet been taken on the development of Satellite Port at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

Finalisation of National Transport Policy

887. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATISH AGARWAL:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have finalised the National Transport Policy for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan indicating also whether the outline of the Shipping Policy has been framed as reported in the Hindustan Times dated that the 16th November 1993; and

(b) if so, whether Government took into consideration the demand of the Indian National Ship Owners' Association in this regard indicating the main demands of the Association which Government have agreed to meet and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI M. RAJASEKARA MURTHY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. as reported in the Hindustan Times dated the 16th November, 1995 the National Transport Policy is in the process of being finalised by the Planning Commission for the Ninth Five Year Plan. Working Groups for each mode have been set up to provide framework for the same.

The outline of the Shipping policy is being framed by the Ministry of Surface Transport for which a Working Group under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Surface Transport) has been constituted. The demands projected by the Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA) have been considered by the Government and the National Shipping Board has been entrusted with the responsibility to